

TRANSLATION

- Office VI -

VI G - B. Nr. 193/44 g

Berlin, February 28, 194

29/2 Dz 1) $\frac{2}{\frac{10}{VI B I}}$

SECRET.

29/2 Dz 2) "2. H.d.v." SS Senior Unit Leader REISSMANN
at Home

Re: Trial against Minister Ciano and
others in VERONA.

During my visit to Verona, the trial against the traitors to fascism was discussed among a wide circle of Germans. In this connection (trial), an especially mysterious part is alleged to have been played by Mrs. BETZ, formerly active for the SD. During each pause in court procedure, she first of all made her way to the bench of the accused, despite opposition of Italian policemen, and was apparently bringing Minister CIANO some sort of information which was obviously raising his spirits. One gained the impression that the SD or Mrs. BETZ wanted to restrain CIANO.

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in some way to the very end (of the trial MRS. BETZ herself was not informed that a death sentence was to be expected, and when it was announced MRS. BETZ as well as CIANO turned deathly pale and completely broke down. One is of the opinion that the SD's role was so notorious as to certainly warrant some of the many ~~detainees~~ visitors to this exhibition trial to dig into it in greater detail after the war.

Furthermore, the execution of the sentenced was discussed by a few of the participants (in the execution). All (of the sentenced) were tied to a bench with faces toward a wall. Marshal de RONO called out before the shots were fired: "Viva l' Italia! Viva l' Duce!" Another accused only cried: "Viva l' Italia!" CIANO sat mute on the bench. All shots of the Italian execution squad hit well; Only in CIANO's case was a neck vein

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merely torn, so that blood spouted far. At this, the execution squad lost its nerve, and only after CIANO had cried out for a longer time in a heart-teasing manner did one of the Italians recover courage and give him a mortal shot in the back.

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SS Junior Storm Leader

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